



**DOWNTOWN DAILY BREAD**  
WWW.DOWNTOWNDAILYBREAD.ORG

# DDB News

**Fall 2014  
Issue 25**

**DDB Mission:**

Feed the hungry &  
provide services for  
the homeless of  
Harrisburg.

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**Downtown  
Daily Bread**  
**310 N. Third Street**  
**Harrisburg PA**  
**17101**

www.downtowndailybread.org  
www.facebook.com/pages/  
Downtown-Daily-Bread-DDB

**717-238-4717**

**Elaine Strokoff**  
**Executive Director**

Kobie White  
Kitchen Manager  
Christine Patrick  
Client Counselor  
Cynthia Swanson  
Mental Health Outreach  
Counselor  
Linda McGuire  
Newsletter Editor

We welcome your  
suggestions, comments,  
and feedback.

Quote:

***"Having a positive  
mental attitude is  
asking how something  
can be done rather than  
saying it can't be  
done."***

Bo Bennett, American  
Businessman & Author



***From The Director***  
**Picnic at DDB**

The kitchen at Downtown Daily Bread was in a "state of disrepair" from Monday Sept. 15th through Wednesday Sept 17th. The sink and stove were pulled out from the wall, the refrigerator was unplugged and the shelving units floated from one place to another. The drywall in the DDB kitchen had to be removed due to mold, and replaced with moisture resistant board. This was a health issue which could no longer be ignored.

When I was originally told that the kitchen would have to be closed for three days for repairs, I just smiled. Silly people, didn't they know that **Downtown Daily Bread never closes?** A plan was put into place. Honestly, if one were to see the kitchen torn apart, they would have said without hesitation, "no meals served today." But, that was never an issue. Pine Street volunteers were asked to make sandwiches for two days' worth of lunches. An enthusiastic group came together and made 300 bologna and cheese sandwiches. These provided lunches for Monday and Wednesday. On Tuesday, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches along with granny smith apples and graham crackers arrived from Country Meadows Retirement Community. This service is provided weekly by volunteer residents who make bagged lunches for DDB clients to take with them after lunch. It is a community collaboration for which we are very grateful.

As clients entered the building on Sept. 15th, 16th, & 17th, I informed them of the condition of the kitchen and our plan for serving sandwiches instead of the usual hot and hearty meal they'd come to expect. The response was heart warming. Many in the lunch line thanked me for not closing the dining room. Others told me that they knew they could depend on DDB to always be open. Clients said that sandwiches were just fine for a few days and that they were grateful for our "making lemonade out of lemons!"

DDB volunteers, although a little unsettled at first, quickly got into the rhythm of serving the premade lunches. DDB is blessed with a cadre of caring, dedicated, committed volunteers. A total of 309 lunches were served to appreciative DDB clients. Thanks to a creative staff, dedicated volunteers, and a committed group of "sandwich makers," DDB men and women clients were treated to picnic lunches instead of being turned away. Once again, Downtown Daily Bread lived up to its motto: "we never close!"

Have a wonderful fall season and go on a picnic!

Best, *Elaine*

**Save The Date:**  
**Saturday, March 28, 2015**  
**Glee for DDB!**

The University of Pennsylvania Glee Club will present an amazing, fun & rockin' concert to benefit Downtown Daily Bread. Food, drink, and much more will take place that evening. So, mark your calendars NOW for an evening you won't want to miss. Support your favorite soup kitchen while enjoying a celebration of music and song! More details coming soon.



Tuesday servers from  
Baughman United  
Methodist Church



## Praise From Our Legislator

We want to share the words from by PA State Representative—103rd Legislative District, Patty Kim

“Dear Ms. Strokoff:

Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for the services that Downtown Daily Bread provides. Many people may know about the daily meal you serve, but I am grateful that you also allow the use of your mailing address by the homeless.

When one of my constituents visited my office seeking assistance because he was without a permanent residence, without income and in dire need of medical care, my staff contacted your organization which provided him with an address where he could receive important correspondence concerning housing, medical insurance and social security. As a result, he had a safe and secure location where he could receive correspondence which led to him getting the help and services he needed.

Again, thank you for your services! You are an integral part of getting people back on their feet and helping them during the most vulnerable time in their lives.”

We are appreciative that Representative Kim recognizes the services provided by DDB and grateful that she took the time to express her thoughts.

## Creating The Vision For DDB

Volunteers carry out the daily mission of DDB by serving our clients. In addition to the volunteer efforts, DDB also relies on our Advisory Board Members help plan events, create awareness, seek sponsorship support, and grow services. In recognition for their dedication and commitment, we would like to thank each DDB Advisory Board Member:

- Chris Baldrige
- Elaine Blass
- Carlyn Chulick
- Georgia Lee Coffman
- Marianne Fischer
- Lee Freeman
- John Jewett
- Richard D. Leigh
- David Saurman

We are also pleased to welcome our newest Advisory Board Member, John Van Allen, Esq. of Van Allen LLC. John is also a four-year trustee of Pine Street Presbyterian Church.

Thanks to **ACS (Art Communication Systems)**, for printing this newsletter. We are pleased to have a partnership with **ACS!** Harrisburg's Premier Commercial Printing Service offers printing, graphic design, sales/marketing, & web development. Call Park Cook, **ACS**, @ 717-232-0144.



## Connecting Through Social Media

Have you “Liked” us on Facebook yet? Downtown Daily Bread now has a presence on Facebook. Please make sure to visit our FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Downtown-Daily-Bread-DDB> We invite you to post on our page and share your comments. We want all of our supporters to be our Facebook friends as well. Plus you can help us promote our page by inviting your friends to Like our page. We realize that we’re living in a digital age and want to stay current with technology. Make sure you also check out our updated website where you can get informed about all that’s going on at DDB as well as securely donate online.

## And The Nomination Goes To....

Congratulations to DDB Executive Director, Elaine Strokoff, on her nomination to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award which will be presented at the upcoming Central PA Women’s Conference. This nomination is a well-deserved honor. We are pleased that Elaine is to be recognized for her many contributions to the Central PA community. Congratulations on this prestigious nomination!



## Did You Know?

DDB served 8,925 meals during the 3rd Quarter 2014 including 309 meals during the 3 day kitchen renovation.

## Silver Issue

Can it really be our 25th issue of *DDB News*? It is hard to believe it’s been over a decade since I met the inspiring DDB Executive Director, Elaine Strokoff. It all began in response to an ad for a volunteer to help with a newsletter. Elaine and I met and began creating *DDB News*. What a rewarding experience it has been to help communicate and share the DDB vision through our newsletter. Thanks to the convenience of technology, the fact that I moved from Elizabethtown, PA to Prairieville, LA **ten years ago**, our progress hasn’t slowed. I still have my connection to Downtown Daily Bread and all the great services it provides!

**Linda McGuire**, Newsletter Editor





Feeding Harrisburg's hungry since 1983!

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### Project Homeless Connect

On September 11, 2014 Chris Patrick and Cynthia Swanson, DDB Caseworkers, participated with the annual "Project Homeless Connect" held at the Farm Show Complex. This was a "one-stop-shopping" opportunity for the homeless of Harrisburg. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. vans full of homeless people were dropped off at the Farm Show Complex where they were met by volunteers. Each client, paired with a volunteer, was evaluated for his or her specific needs. The most common needs included: obtaining a Social Security card; enrolling for food stamps; seeing a doctor; and signing up for a mailing address at Downtown Daily Bread. Often the mailing address had to be obtained before other services could be provided.

A total of 42 people signed up to receive their mail at DDB that day. Breakfast and lunch were provided as were free flu shots.

This is always a worthwhile event that truly helps many homeless folks connect with the area service providers. Downtown Daily Bread is looking forward to participating next year, as it has since the first "Homeless Connect" event five years ago.

### A French Perspective

Bonjour!

My name is Mathilde Fiorletta and I am 19 years old. My home is Nancy, France, a city twice the size of Harrisburg, in the north-east part of France. I am an engineering student (I will graduate in 2018) and I love physics and chemistry. Part of the university's requirements is to spend the summer in an English-speaking country. We are required to speak another language. I speak Spanish as well. I have been in Harrisburg for 5 weeks, staying with a friend of my mother's. During this time I have been volunteering at different agencies. I have been a volunteer at Downtown Daily Bread for one week. I spent my time in the mailroom which helped me improve my English. With this experience, I saw homelessness up close. And learned of the many ways they can be helped in this country (which are actually more than in France). Downtown Daily Bread really does a great job and I am happy that I had an opportunity to help. Thanks to places like DDB!

**Mathilde Fiorletta**

### Client Story

"Bill" is a 62 year old homeless veteran. He came to DDB for lunch, and stopped in my office after hearing that DDB provides services to homeless veterans. Before he started his story, he began crying.

"Bill" said that he is "tired and scared of sleeping on the streets". He shared with me that he was in the Navy for six years, left with an Honorable Discharge, and settled in Tennessee. "Bill" left Tennessee after a family break-up and decided to come to Harrisburg. He said he had a friend here and wanted to start over. Since this June, he has been trying to get his life back together, but just did not know how. As his story unfolded, I learned "Bill" is a veteran. I quickly called our Veteran's Representatives from the YWCA and asked for assistance. Together, we collaborated on getting "Bill" off the streets. We worked with Bill on obtaining the necessary paperwork such as his ID and discharge papers to allow him to secure the benefits for which he is eligible. After 5 weeks, and lots of behind the scenes work, "Bill" now has permanent housing in town. "Bill" did everything that was asked of him, without delay, and because of all of our collaboration. I am happy to report that DDB has helped another very grateful veteran!

*Christine Patrick*



The holidays are coming and we would appreciate food donations to help with holiday meals and throughout the winter months.

*"Let all that are hungry come and eat." Isaiah*

### Ways To Give

DDB supplies are low. Are you able to help? There are many ways to give to DDB, whether it be in the form of funds, food, or other items. Please remember all donations are tax deductible.

**Financial Support:** Always the Best Gift! When you support DDB financially, we are able to maximize those funds collectively; thereby, making more economical purchases. With your donations \$2 pays for one meal; \$50 for 25 meals; \$100 for 50 meals, etc. Please consider sponsoring a meal with your family, friends, or business. You will feel good knowing that you are feeding a group of hungry people at Downtown Daily Bread. Make secure online donations via the DDB website through PayPal or make checks payable to Downtown Daily Bread.

**Suggested Food Items:** Ham, Chicken, Turkeys or Beef; #10 Cans Fruits, Vegetables, and Soups. Spices, Spaghetti Sauce, Coffee, and Drink Mixes.

**Non-Food Needed Items:** Aluminum Foil, Paper Towels, Styrofoam, Paper, Or Plastic Cups And Bowls, and Liquid Dish Detergent

**Forwarding Address Requested**

310 North Third Street  
Harrisburg PA 17101

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Pine Street Presbyterian Church

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